Exhibit E

Case 4:17-cv-13292-LVP-EAS ECF No. 122-5 filed 02/27/20 PageID.2901 Page 2 of 3

AFT Michigan Files Civil Complaint Against James O'Keefe's Project Veritas, Alleging Illegal Surveillance | American Federation of Teachers

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Press Release

AFT Michigan Files Civil **Complaint Against James** O'Keefe's Project Veritas, Alleging Illegal Surveillance

AFT President Randi Weingarten: These "operatives will stop at nothing to smear their ideological opponents—deception, distortion and dirty tactics—all to advance a political agenda that undermines public school students, teachers and families."

For Release:

Friday, September 29, 2017

Contact: **AFT Media Affairs** 202/879-4458 press@aft.org

DETROIT—A circuit court judge has signed an <u>emergency restraining</u> order (//www.aft.org/sites/default/files/tro_aftmi_veritas_092917.pdf)

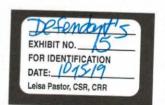
that prevents Project Veritas, a conservative hit group that uses deception and lies to attack its political opponents, from using illegally obtained information to smear Michigan children, teachers and families.

AFT Michigan on Thursday filed a civil complaint against Project Veritas (//www.aft.org/sites/default/files/complaint aftmi veritas 092717.pdf) and its operative Marisa Jorge for their fraudulent, unauthorized and unlawful surveillance of AFT Michigan staff, leaders and associates, and for gathering information from them. In response to the complaint, Judge Brian Sullivan of Michigan's Third Judicial Circuit Court issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting Jorge, her agents and anyone acting in concert with her from releasing private and confidential information gathered from any unlawful surveillance.

It is believed to be the first time Project Veritas, founded by conservative activist James O'Keefe, has been subject to such an order







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in its near decade-long existence.

Jorge used fraud and deception under the alias "Marissa Perez" to secure an internship with AFT Michigan, ostensibly to obtain material Project Veritas could use in one of its infamously misleading hit videos, according to the complaint. Jorge falsely claimed to be a student at the University of Michigan interested in becoming a teacher when, in fact, she is a recent graduate of Liberty University and appears to be working for Project Veritas. The restraining order is against Jorge as well as "her agents, employees and those acting in concert," which would include Project Veritas, also named in the complaint.

Project Veritas is funded by a constellation of conservative backers and has frequently targeted teachers unions. Indeed, O'Keefe recently vowed to use his puerile tactics in defense of embattled Education Secretary Betsy DeVos who, coincidentally, is from Michigan where this criminal infiltration occurred. Project Veritas has in the past received funding from the Trump Foundation.

O'Keefe has demonstrated his willingness to ignore both legal and ethical standards. Long before the Russian government propagated fake news and deceptive tactics to sway the 2016 presidential election, O'Keefe was assuming false identities and doctoring videos in his attempts to smear his ideological opponents.

AFT President Randi Weingarten says, "James O'Keefe and his operatives will stop at nothing to smear their ideological opponents—deception, distortion and dirty tactics—all to advance a political agenda that undermines public school students, teachers and families.

"When the rights of students are curtailed by our own secretary of education who has spent decades attacking, rather than supporting, public education, it is more important than ever to fight for the truth and for the promise of public education. We are grateful that the Michigan court has protected—at least for now—students, teachers and families in Michigan."

View AFT Michigan's complaint

View the temporary restraining order against Project Veritas and Marisa Jorge

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The AFT represents 1.7 million pre-K through 12th-grade teachers; paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; federal, state and local government employees; nurses and healthcare workers; and early childhood educators.